

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13
INSE-00 VO-05 /043 W
-----127899 121239Z /23

R 121148Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8004
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 01236

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, CASC, CVIS
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BY GROC

REF: (A) BANGKOK 34872 (1977) (B) STATE 296504 (1977)

1. SUMMARY: THE GROC REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSULAR MATTERS IN THAILAND ADVISED AN EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICER THAT TAIPEI WILL NOT CHANGE ITS CURRENT CRITERIA FOR ADMITTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OF CHINESE ORIGIN. THE REPRESENTATIVE HOWEVER, OFFERED TO FORWARD INFORMATION ON REFUGEES WITH IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN TAIWAN SO THAT THE FAMILY COULD BE NOTIFIED OF THE REFUGEES' WHEREABOUTS, AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION DIRECTLY WITH THE GROC
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICER DAKS JANUARY 30 AGAIN MET WITH WU MING-YEN, THE CHIEF OF THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS SECTION OF CHINA AIRLINES. WU STATED THAT HE HAD REPORTED THEIR EARLIER MEETING (REFTEL A) TO TAIPEI. THE REPLY FROM TAIPEI INDICATED THAT GROC ADMITTANCE PROCEDURES FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OF CHINESE ETHNICITY
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WOULD NOT BE REVISED. WU WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT TAIPEI HAD ACCEPTED NO BANGKOK APPLICANTS DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

3. WU ATTRIBUTED THE STRICTER ADMITTANCE POLICY THAT HAS EVOLVED OVER THE PAST YEAR PARTIALLY TO A DESIRE TO PUT INDOCHINESE ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH

REFUGEES WHO FLEE FROM MAINLAND CHINA. HE CLAIMED THAT A FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD SUBJECT THE GROC TO CRITICISM BY PEOPLE ON TAIWAN. ANOTHER FACTOR IS INCREASING GROC CONCERN OVER INTERNAL SECURITY. HE CITED THE HALT OF RED CROSS FLIGHTS TAKING CHINESE FROM SAIGON FOR ULTIMATE RESETTLEMENT IN TAIWAN AS AN INDICATION OF THE CONCERN OF GROC INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCIES OVER COMMUNIST INFILTRATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHETHER THE GROC WOULD AGREE TO ADDITIONAL RED CROSS FLIGHTS FOR CHINESE.

4. DAKS SHOWED WU THE CASE FILE OF ONE SINO-LAO REFUGEE WHO HAD A MOTHER IN TAIWAN. HER FILE CONTAINED A COPY OF A LETTER FROM WU'S OFFICE REJECTING HER APPLICATION FOR ADMITTANCE BECAUSE THE REQUEST "WAS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS. THE REFUGEE TOLD US SHE WAS REJECTED BECAUSE HER HUSBAND DID NOT HAVE ANY TIES WITH TAIWAN. WU CONFIRMED THAT THE APPLICATION HAD BEEN REJECTED, BUT SAID THAT THE LIKELY REASON WAS SECURITY.

5. WU SAID THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO FORWARD TO TAIPEI COPIES OF FILES ON REFUGEES WHO HAVE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS IN TAIWAN. HE SAID THE RELATIVES WOULD BE NOTIFIED OF THE REFUGEES' WHEREABOUTS, AND THEY WOULD BE FREE TO APPLY ON CONFIDENTIAL

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BEHALF OF THE REFUGEES FOR ADMISSION TO TAIWAN, A PROCEDURE HE DESCRIBED AS NORMAL. WU ALSO SAID THAT REFUGEES WITH IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN TAIWAN (PARENTS, CHILDREN, SIBLINGS) COULD BE ADVISED BY REFUGEE OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES THAT APPLICATION FOR RESETTLEMENT CAN BE MADE "IN PERSON" AT CHINA AIRLINES IN BANGKOK. THE ONLY CATEGORY OF REFUGEE THE GROC WILL DEFINITELY ACCEPT ARE FORMER GROC GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. EDUCATION IN TAIWAN IS NOT CONSIDERED A SUFFICIENT LINK FOR RESETTLEMENT.

6. WU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT DAKS MIGHT WISH TO CALL ON GROC OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH REFUGEE MATTERS WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH TAIWAN IN MARCH.

7. THE REFUGEE SECTION THUS PLANS TO FORWARD COPIES OF FILES ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO HAVE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN TAIWAN AND NO STRONG TIES OR ASSOCIATION WITH THE U.S. TO CHINA AIRLINES IN BANGKOK. IN VIEW OF CURRENT GROC POLICY, HOWEVER, WE WILL NOT CONSIDER AN IMMEDIATE RELATIVE IN TAIWAN AS BEING A BARRIER TO OUR PRESENTING TO INS A REFUGEE

WHO MEETS OUR CRITERIA.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO01236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780018-0371
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780173/aaaacjqc.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 243b8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BANGKOK 34872, 78 STATE 296504
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3790064
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BY GROC
TAGS: SREF, CASC, CVIS
To: STATE TAIPEI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/243b8be4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014